

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

July 2011 – Week 3

Air Date: July 17 – July 23 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: WRONG WAY, TEXAN

JULY 1938 AND A MIXED-UP TEXAN FLYS INTO FAME.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JULY 17, 1938. NEW YORK. BORN IN GALVESTON, DOUGLAS CORRIGAN LOVES FLYING. HE HELPED BUILD THE PLANE LINDBERGH FLEW ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IN 1927, AND WAS SO INSPIRED, HE DECIDES TO TRY IT HIMSELF.

CORRIGAN BUYS AN OLD MONOPLANE TO FLY FROM NEW YORK TO IRELAND. BUT THE GOVERNMENT SAYS NO. HE CAN FLY FROM L.A. TO NEW YORK AND BACK, BUT NOT OVERSEAS.

THIS MORNING, CORRIGAN TAKES OFF TO RETURN TO CALIFORNIA, BUT INSTEAD, HEADS EAST AND KEEPS ON GOING. TWENTY-EIGHT HOURS LATER HE LANDS IN IRELAND, CLAIMING HE SIMPLY WENT THE WRONG WAY.

HE CROSSED THE ATLANTIC WITHOUT A RADIO OR PERMISSION, IN A PLANE HELD TOGETHER BY BALING WIRE, WITH AN OLD COMPASS, TWO CHOCOLATE BARS AND A LOT OF GUTS.

WRONG-WAY CORRIGAN FLEW IN THE FACE OF HISTORY 73 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Douglas Corrigan, Wikipedia, accessed July 7, 2011, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_Corrigan

David H. Onkst, 'Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan', U.S. Centennial of Flight Commission, accessed July 7, 2011, http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Explorers_Record_Setters_and_Daredevils/corrigan/EX16.htm

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